(c) whether it is also a fact that French researchers have been able to successfully suppress the AIDS/HIV virus upto one year among a small group of patients; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Tribal of AIDS Vaccine has been launched on 7th February 2005 at National AIDS Research Institute, Pune on human volunteers.

The Adeno Associated Viral vaccine (AAV) is a candidate vaccine, which is undergoing phase-I trial.

Regulatory approvals for this trial have been obtained from the National AIDS Research Institute (NARI). Scientific and ethics committee, the central ethics committee, the Drug Controller General of India, Generateic Engineering approval committee and the Health Minister's Steering Committee (HMSC), Only after the regulatory and social committee in India have critically examined the data from other trial sides, the approval for Phase-I trial in India was given.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The outcome of preliminary investigations of the efficacy of therapeutic dendritic cell based vaccine shows that it could be a promising strategy for treating patients with chronic HIV-I infections. However, study was carried out only in eighteen patients.

Sugar free tablets

595. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether aspartame is used in the manufacture of sugar free tablets and in other products sold in the market for use by diabetics;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether aspartame causes various diseases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by Government to ban use of aspartame in sugar free tablets and in other products in the interest of health of diabetics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Rule 47 of Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rule 1955 provide aspartame (methyl ester) may be marketed as Table Top Sweetener in tablet, in granular form, in moisture proof package and concentration of aspartame shall not exceed 18 mg per 100 mg of tablet or granular.

Aspartame is allowed in following food items in maximum quantities mentioned against each:—

Carbonated Water	700ppm
Soft Drink Concentrate	700ppm
Biscuits, Bread, Cakes and Pasteries	2200ppm
Sweets, (Carbohydrates based and milk products based), Halwa, Mysore Pak, Boondi Ladoo, Jalebi, Khoya Burfi, Peda, Gulab Jamun, Rasogolla and Similar milk product based Sweets sold by any name	200ppm
Jam, Jellies, Marmalades	1000ppm
Chocolate (Whilte, Milk, Plain, Composite and Filled)	2000ppm
Sugar based/Sugar free confectionary	10000ppm
Chewing gum/Bubble gum,	
Synthetic, Syrup for dispenser	3000ppm

The labelling requirements under PFA Rules 1955 are given below:—(ZZZ)(1) Every package of food which is permitted to contain artificial sweetener mentioned in table given in rule 47 and advertisement for such food shall carry the following label, namely:—

(i) This.....(Name of food) contains.....(Name of artificial sweetener)

(ii) Not recommended for children

(iii) *(a)Quantity of sugar added.....gm/100gm.
(b) No sugar added in the product.

(iv) *Not for Phenylketoneuries (if Aspertame is added)
(*strike out whatever is not applicable)

(ZZZ)(1)(A) In addition to the declaration under rule (ZZZ)(1), every package of food which is permitted to contain artificial sweetener mentioned in table in rule 47 and an advertisement for such food shall carry the following label, namely:—

CONTAINS ARTIFICIAL SWEETENER AND FOR CALORIE CONSCIOUS

(ZZZ) (1)(B) The declaration under sub-rule (ZZZ)(1)(A) shall be provided alongwith name or trade name of product and shall be of the size of the name/trade name. The declaration may be given in two sentences, but in the same box:

ZZZ(2) Every package of Aspertame (Methyl ester), Acesulfame-K and Saccharin Sodium marketed as Table Top Sweetener and every advertisement for such Table Top Sweetener shall carry the following label, namely:—

(i) Contains.....(name of artificial sweetener)
(ii) Not recommended for Children;

Provided that the package of aspertame (Methyl ester) marketed as Table-Top Sweetener and every advertisement for such Table Top Sweetener shall also carry the following label, namely:—

"Not for Phenylketoneurics"

ZZZ(12) Every package of food which is permitted to contain a mixture of Aspertame (Methyl Ester) and Acesulfame Potassium Sweeteners mentioned in the Table given in rule 47, shall carry the following label, namely:—

(i) This.....(Name of Food) contains an admixture of Aspertame.

(Methyl Ester) and Acesulfame Potassium.

(ii) Not recommended for children.

(iii) *(a) Quantity of sugar added.....gm/100gm.
(b) No sugar added in the product.

(iv) *Not for Phenylketoneurics (if Aspertame is added)

(*strike out whatever is not applicable)

(c) to (e) Aspartame is recognized as safe as per safety evaluation by joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives with acceptable daily intake of 0-40 mg per kg body weight.

Retirement age of Government doctors

596. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to raise the retirement age of Government doctors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware of the exodus of medical specialists from various Government Hospitals to private hospitals;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of specialists doctors who have left Government hospital to join private hospitals;

(e) whether Government are contemplating special pay-package for specialists doctors; and

(f) if so, the details in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) The retirement age of Government doctors was raised from 58 years to 60 years in 1998. The informotion available in the Ministry does not indicate that specialists of Central Health Service are leaving to join private hospitals in significant numbers. During the last five years 5.47% of the total strength of specialists of Central Health Service have left the service. No indications have been given by such doctors about their joining private hospitals. The pay and allowances including Non Practicing Allowance of Central Health Service officers have been increased significantly as per the recommendations of the 5th Central Pay Commission.

Single Window System for clearing the new drug applications

597. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: